



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/098,574

03/18/2002

Soazig Leprince

08048.0029-00

3216

22852 7590 12/18/2006

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP

901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

ARAQUE JR, GERARDO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|-----------|---------------|
|--|-----------|---------------|

3 MONTHS

12/18/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/098,574

Applicant(s)

LEPRINCE, SOAZIG

Examiner

Gerardo Araque Jr.

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27, 74-98, 179-198 and 239-258 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 28-73, 99-178 and 199-238 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27, 74-98, 179-198 and 239-258 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :3/18/02,10/29/02,3/9/05,4/4/05,.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-27, 74-98, 179-198, and 239-258 in the reply filed on 11/13/2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the claims relate to similar subject matter because they involve providing hair tinting information and features relating to hair tinting. This is not found persuasive because the method to determine the hair-tinting product is carried out using different pieces of information to arrive at a final conclusion.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. **Claims 4 – 5, 26, 77 – 78, 97, 189, and 249** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. The term "best" in **claims 4 – 5 and 77 – 78** is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "best" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not

Art Unit: 3629

provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. What are the criteria to determine what is "best"? Moreover, how can something be deemed the "best" when others may have another point of view of what is the "best"?

6. The term "substantially entirely" in **claims 26, 97, 189, and 249** is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "substantially entirely" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Is the whole method covered at the point of sale? How much of the method is not covered? How can a something be substantially entirely done?

7. The term "substantially" in **claims 190 and 250** is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "substantially" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. How much is substantially? How much of the apparatus is really stand-alone?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

Art Unit: 3629

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. **Claims 1 – 6, 8, 10 – 27, 74 – 81, 83 – 98, 179 – 186, 189 – 190, 192, 194 – 198, 239 – 246, 247, 249 – 250, 252, 254 – 258** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Marapane (US PGPub 2002/0010556 A1)**.

10. In regard to **claims 1 and 179**, **Marapane** discloses a method for providing hair tinting information, comprising:

receiving first information representative of at least one state of a subject's hair
(Page 1 ¶ 7);

receiving second information representative of at least one desired hair tinting result of the subject **(Page 1 ¶ 8, 10; Figure 9);**

providing information relating to a plurality of hair tinting products based on at least the first information and the second information **(Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10);**

receiving third information representative of the subject's selection of at least one hair tinting product in the plurality of hair tinting products **(Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10);** and

providing information relating to the at least one selected hair tinting product
(Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10; Page 2 ¶ 29).

11. In regard to **claims 2 and 75**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the receiving first information includes receiving at least one of a subject's natural hair color and a subject's percentage of senescent hair **(Page 2 ¶ 30).**

12. In regard to **claims 3, 76, 180 – 182, 184, 186, 240 – 242, 244, and 246**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the first information is received from at least one of a

Art Unit: 3629

portable measuring device, a touch-screen display, a mouse, and a keyboard (**Page 6 – 7 ¶ 134 – 139**).

13. In regard to **claims 4 and 77, Marapane** discloses further comprising: providing a plurality of natural hair color examples, wherein receiving first information comprises receiving a subject's natural hair color selection corresponding to one of the plurality of natural hair color examples which best corresponds to the subject's natural hair color (**Page 2 ¶ 31**); and storing the subject's natural hair color selection (**inherently included**).

14. In regards to **claim 5, Marapane** discloses further comprising: providing a plurality of examples of senescent hair percentages, wherein the receiving first information comprises receiving a subject's percentage of senescent hair selection corresponding to one of the plurality of examples of senescent hair percentages which best corresponds to the subject's percentage of senescent hair (**Page 3 ¶ 40**).

15. In regard to **claims 6 and 79, Marapane** discloses further comprising: receiving product information corresponding to the plurality of hair tinting products, wherein the received product information includes at least one of suitability of covering a percentage of senescent hair, natural application base, color effect obtained, color trademark, base shade, shade of highlights, lightening power, bleaching power, tone, product range, and product duration (**Page 1 ¶ 10; Figure 12**).

16. In regard to **claims 7 and 80, Marapane** discloses wherein the product information is received from a local storage medium, including at least one of a hard disk and a solid state memory (**Page 6 ¶ 135 - 137**).

Art Unit: 3629

17. In regards to **claims 8, 81, 185, and 245, Marapane** discloses wherein the product information is received over a network (**Page 7 ¶ 137**).

18. In regard to **claims 10 and 83, Marapane** discloses wherein the product information is representative of products marketed under at least one brand name (**Figure 2**).

19. In regard to **claims 11 and 84, Marapane** discloses further comprising:
selecting from the plurality of hair tinting products, based on the subject's percentage of senescent hair, a first subset of hair tinting products (**Figure 8**); and
selecting from the first subset, based on the subject's natural hair color, a second subset of hair tinting products (**Figure 9**).

20. In regard to **claims 12 and 85, Marapane** discloses wherein the selecting from the first subset comprises:

selecting at least one of a) hair tinting products having a natural application base corresponding to the subject's natural hair color (**inherently included when deciding on a product**), and b) hair tinting products which satisfy at least one condition specific to at least one type of color result (**inherently included since it would not be logical to provide a customer with a product that would result in a dissatisfactory result**).

21. In regard to **claims 13 and 86, Marapane** discloses wherein the receiving second information includes receiving a desired type of color result by the user, wherein the desired type of color result is selected from attainable types of color result (**Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10**).

Art Unit: 3629

22. In regard to **claims 14 and 87**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the attainable types of color result include at least one of lightness, colored shade, and cover senescent hair **(Page 3 – 4 ¶ 40 – 41)**.

23. In regard to **claims 15 and 88**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the lightness includes at least one of streaks and whole head **(inherently included when deciding on a product see also Page 2 ¶ 32)**.

24. In regard to **claims 16 and 89**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the colored shade includes at least one of intense result, natural result, and colored streaks result **(inherently included when deciding on a product see also Page 2 ¶ 32)**.

25. In regards to **claim 18**, **Marapane** discloses further comprising:

determining the product durations for at least some of the hair tinting products **(inherently included in that all hair dying products have various durations, such as temporary, semi-permanent, and permanent)**; and

selecting hair tinting products having a product duration corresponding to the desired duration **(inherently included dependent on the customers desire)**.

26. In regards to **claims 19 and 90**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the providing information relating to a plurality of hair tinting products further comprises providing ranges of hair tinting products **(Figure 10)**.

27. In regards to **claims 20 and 91**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the receiving third information representative of the subject's selection further comprises receiving information associated with at least one desired range **(Page 2 ¶ 30)**.

28. In regard to **claims 21 and 92**, **Marapane** discloses further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one desired range of hair tinting products (**Page 1 ¶ 8, 10; Figure 9**); and

providing information relating to the hair tinting products having at least one range corresponding to the at least one desired range (**Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10**).

29. In regard to **claims 22 and 93**, Marapane discloses wherein at least one shade is associated with the at least one range (**Figure 12**).

30. In regard to **claims 23 and 94**, Marapane discloses further comprising: receiving information related to a subject's desired tone (**Page 1 ¶ 8, 10; Figure 9**); determining the hair tinting products within the at least one range having a tone corresponding to the desired tone (**Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10**); and indicating at least one shade which corresponds to the desired tone (**Figure 12**).

31. In regard to **claims 24 and 95**, Marapane discloses further comprising enabling the subject to purchase at least some of the hair tinting products (**inherently included wherein Marapane discloses that the system could be used in a salon which would indicate that a purchase would be made Page 2 ¶ 29**).

32. In regard to **claims 25 and 96**, Marapane discloses further comprising offering at least some of the hair tinting products for sale (**inherently included wherein Marapane discloses that the system could be used in a salon which would indicate that a purchase would be made Page 2 ¶ 29**).

33. In regard to **claims 26, 97, 189, and 249**, Marapane discloses wherein the method is performed at least substantially entirely at a point of sale for the hair tinting products (**inherently included wherein Marapane discloses that the system could**

be used in a salon which would indicate that a purchase would be made Page 2 ¶ 29).

34. In regard to **claims 27 and 98, Marapane** discloses wherein the information relating to at least one hair tinting product comprises information relating to at least one of a plurality of products and a plurality of subsets of products **(Figures 8 – 10).**

35. In regard to **claims 74 and 239, Marapane** discloses a method for providing hair tinting information, comprising:

receiving first information representative of at least one state of a subject's hair **(Page 1 ¶ 7);**

providing, based on at least the first information, at least one type of color result **(Page 1 ¶ 6);**

receiving second information representative of a desired type of color result of the subject **(Page 1 ¶ 8, 10; Figure 9);** and

providing, based on at least the first information and the second information, information relating to at least one hair tinting product **(Page 1 ¶ 6 – 10) .**

36. In regards to **claim 78, Marapane** discloses further comprising:

providing a plurality of examples of senescent hair percentages **(Page 2 ¶ 30 – 31);** and

37. receiving a subject's percentage of senescent hair selection corresponding to one of the plurality of percentages of senescent hair examples which best corresponds to the subject's percentage of senescent hair **(Page 2 ¶ 30 – 31).**

Art Unit: 3629

38. In regard to **claims 183 and 243**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the measuring device is a portable instrument for measuring a subject's hair color (**Page 2 ¶ 31**).

39. In regards to **claims 190 and 250**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the apparatus operates substantially as a stand-alone unit without being connected to a computer server (**Page 2 ¶ 31**).

40. In regard to **claims 192 and 252**, **Marapane** discloses further comprising at least one swatch sampler (**Page 3 ¶ 40**).

41. In regard to **claims 194 and 254**, **Marapane** discloses further comprising at least one swatch sampler for estimating the quantity of senescent hair (**Page 3 ¶ 40**).

42. In regard to **claims 195 and 255**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the at least one swatch sampler further includes two sets of samplers enabling the quantity of senescent hair to be evaluated, one corresponding to a subject having fair hair and one corresponding to a subject having dark hair (**Page 3 ¶ 40**).

43. In regard to **claims 196 and 256**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the at least one swatch sampler for estimating the quantity of senescent hair is comprised of at least five swatches, corresponding to 0%, less than 30%, 30% to 50%, 50% to 80%, and greater than 80% (**Page 3 ¶ 40**).

44. In regard to **claims 197 and 257**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the apparatus is adjacent to at least one set of shelves suitable for hair tinting products (**Page 2 ¶ 29**; **wherein the invention as disclosed by Marapane can be used in a salon, which would obviously have the apparatus adjacent to shelves suitable for hair tinting products**).

Art Unit: 3629

45. In regard to **claims 198 and 258**, **Marapane** discloses further comprising a lighting means for lighting a subject's hair (**Page 2 ¶ 29; obviously included wherein a salon would have lighting means**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

46. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

47. **Claims 7, 9, 82, 187 – 188, 247 – 248, 191, 193, 251, and 253** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marapane et al. (US PGPub 2002/0010556 A1)**.

48. In regard to **claims 9 and 82**, **Marapane** discloses that the method is carried out on a network, but fails to explicitly disclose the internet. However, it is old and well known that the internet is also a network. Moreover, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art using the teachings of **Marapane** that the method can also be carried out anywhere (**Page 2 ¶ 29**), including the internet, in order to avoid a large gathering of people waiting within a salon, for example.

49. In regards to **claim 17**, **Marapane** discloses receiving second information includes receiving the desired duration of hair tinting (**wherein it would be obvious when a customer selects a hair dying product it would include the type of dye, i.e. temporary, semi-permanent, and permanent**).

Art Unit: 3629

50. In regard to **claims 187 and 247**, **Marapane** discloses an image acquisition device for capturing an image of the subject for displaying on the display (**Page 1 ¶ 10 in which it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that an image acquisition device would be required in order to carryout the method disclosed by Marapane**).

51. In regard to **claims 188 and 248**, **Marapane** discloses wherein said image acquisition device comprises a camera (**Page 1 ¶ 10 in which it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that an image acquisition device would be required in order to carryout the method disclosed by Marapane, further still, it would have been also obvious that a camera would be an image acquisition device**).

52. In regards to **claims 191 and 251**, **Marapane** discloses that the method can be carried out in a salon wherein it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that salons have mirrors.

53. In regard to **claims 193 and 253**, **Marapane** discloses wherein the at least one swatch sampler includes a sampler of colored swatches comprising shade colors of black, brown, dark chestnut, chestnut, pale chestnut, dark blonde, blonde, light blonde, very light blonde, and lightest blonde (**Page 4 ¶ 41 moreover the various shades disclosed does not affect the function of the invention**).

Conclusion

54. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure can be found on PTO-892 Notice of References Cited.

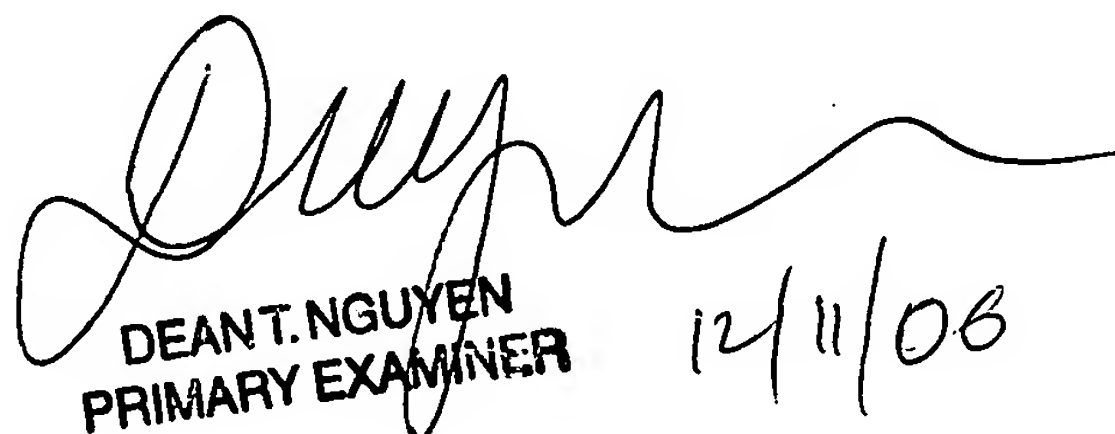
Art Unit: 3629

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerardo Araque Jr. whose telephone number is (571)272-3747. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GA
12/7/06


DEANT. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/11/06